PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving, at a terminal device, one or more scattering instructions, the scattering instructions providing information for temporally scattering at least one portion of a plurality of time slot data of a time slot, the temporal scattering dividing the at least one portion of time slot data into at least two temporally non-contiguous time intervals; and

transmitting the temporally scattered data.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising receiving configuration information, wherein the one or more scattering instructions are included with the configuration information.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the one or more scattering instructions comprise an index into a memory of stored time-scattering control information.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the memory is disposed within the terminal device.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the one or more scattering instructions comprise a tabular indication of how to temporally scatter the data.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the tabular indication specifies, by time interval identifier, a starting location for scattered data.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the one or more scattering instructions comprise an algorithm for temporally scattering the data.

8. (Currently Amended) A terminal device, comprising:

a processor;

a memory of stored time-scattering control information coupled to the processor; and

a machine accessible medium, coupled to the processor, having instructions encoded therein, the instructions, when executed by the processor, cause the terminal device to:

receive one or more scattering instructions, the scattering instructions providing information for temporally scattering at least one portion of a plurality of time slot data of a time slot, the temporal scattering dividing the at least one portion of time slot data into at least two temporally non-contiguous time intervals; and

transmitting the temporally scattered data.

9. (Original) The terminal device of Claim 8, wherein the instructions, when executed by the processor further cause the terminal device to receive configuration information, wherein the one or more scattering instructions are included with the configuration information.

10. (Original) The terminal device of Claim 8, wherein the one or more scattering instructions comprise an index into the memory.

11. (Original) The terminal device of Claim 10, wherein the memory is part of the terminal device.

12. (Original) The terminal device of Claim 8, wherein the one or more scattering instructions sequentially scatter time slot data into at least two non adjacent time intervals.

13. (Original) The terminal device of Claim 8, wherein the one or more scattering instructions comprise a tabular indication of how to temporally scatter time slot data.

14. (Original) The terminal device of Claim 8, wherein the one or more scattering instructions comprise an algorithmic indication of how to temporally scatter time slot data.

15. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving a request from a terminal device for access to a communications channel;
generating a schedule of transmission for the terminal device, the schedule dividing the terminal device's transmissions of time slot data of a time slot into at least two temporally non-contiguous time intervals; and
transmitting the schedule of transmission to the terminal device.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein receiving the request comprises receiving an indication of the amount of data queued at the terminal device for communication.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein the schedule of transmission comprises a list of time intervals.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein each time interval comprises a starting location in a frame and a transmission duration.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 15, further comprising transmitting modulation control information for the time scattered data.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the communications channel is divided into frames and wherein each frame is divided into a number of time slots in accordance with a dividing rate.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the starting location comprises a time slot and the transmission duration comprises a number of time intervals.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the starting location comprises a first time interval identifier and the transmission duration comprises an second time interval identifier.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 15, further comprising receiving data from the terminal device, transmitted in a scattered manner per the scattering instructions, and reordering the data in accordance with the scattering schedule to obtain the data in its originally intended order.

24-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) Apparatus comprising:
means for receiving a request from a terminal device for access to a communications channel;
means for generating a schedule of transmission for the terminal device, the schedule dividing the terminal device's transmissions of time slot data of a time slot into at least two temporally non-contiguous time intervals; and
means for transmitting the schedule of transmission to the terminal device.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the means for receiving the request comprises means for receiving an indication of the amount of data queued at the terminal device for communication.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the <u>means</u> <u>for generating the</u> schedule of transmission comprises <u>means for generating</u> a list of time intervals.

29. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 28, wherein each time interval comprises a starting location in a frame and a transmission duration.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 26, further comprising <u>means for</u> transmitting modulation control information for the time scattered data.

31. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the communications channel is divided into frames and wherein each frame is divided into a number of time slots in accordance with a dividing rate.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ <u>apparatus</u> of Claim 26, further comprising means for receiving data from the terminal device, <u>the data</u> transmitted in a scattered manner ~~per~~ <u>in accordance with</u> the scattering instructions, and means for reordering the data in accordance with the scattering schedule to obtain the data in its originally intended order.

33-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ <u>A terminal device</u>, comprising:
means for receiving~~, at a terminal device,~~ one or more scattering instructions, the scattering instructions providing information for temporally scattering at least one portion of a plurality of time slot data, the temporal scattering dividing the at least one portion of time slot data <u>of a time slot</u> into at least two temporally non-contiguous time intervals; and
<u>means for</u> transmitting the temporally scattered data.

36. (Original) The ~~apparatus~~ terminal device of Claim 35, further comprising means for receiving configuration information, wherein the one or more scattering instructions are included with the configuration information.

37. (Original) The ~~apparatus~~ terminal device of Claim 35, <u>further comprising a memory for storing time-scattering control information,</u> wherein the one or more scattering instructions comprise an index into a <u>the</u> memory ~~of stored time-scattering control information~~.

38. (Cancelled).

39. (New) A terminal device comprising:

    a receiver to receive data scattering instructions;

    a transmitter to transmit, in accordance with the data scattering instructions, temporally scattered data comprising time slot data, of at least one portion of a time slot, divided into at least two temporally non-contiguous time intervals, each time interval having a duration shorter than a time slot duration.

40. (New) The terminal device of claim 39, further comprising:

    a processor responsive to the data scattering instructions to divide the time slot data into the temporally non-contiguous time intervals.

41. (New) A terminal device comprising:

    a receiver configured to receive data scattering instructions;

    a processor configured to divide, in accordance with the data scattering instructions, at least one portion of time slot data of a time slot into at least two temporally non-contiguous time intervals, each time interval having a duration shorter than a time slot duration.

42. (New) The terminal device of claim 41, further comprising a transmitter configured to transmit the time slot data arranged within the non-contiguous time intervals.